

NSC BRIEFING

3 June 1959

MIDDLE EAST NOTES

- I. Rumors persist in Iraq that anti-Communist elements are preparing some action against Communists, possibly also against Qasim himself.

A.



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- B. There are somewhat better reports that Qasim is reducing Communist influence by transferring leading pro-Communists in his entourage--his aide Col. Wafî Tahir and the army chief of plans Brigadier Taha Ahmad--to ambassadorial posts.

1. Tahir is scheduled to go to Bonn, and the chief of plans possibly to Peking.

- C. We regard Qasim's cancellation of our 1954 military assistance agreement and of the agreement resulting from the Richards mission of 1957 as further revoking of agreements concluded by the old regime with the "imperialists."

1. Iraqis apparently are also contemplating some revision in economic technical assistance program US has been providing since 1952.

- II. In Sudan, General Abboud has arrested leaders of abortive 22 May military coup.

- A. This action, following initial period of indecision probably stems from assurances of British support and from support Abboud obtained at an army commanders' conference in Khartoum last weekend.

B.

[REDACTED]

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Castro's emissaries agreed on 1 June to recommend two-year delay in implementation of reform program as applies to sugar mill owners and cane growers.

1. Fidel last week confirmed statement of Labor Minister that government doesn't contemplate breaking up sugar lands immediately, "perhaps not this year."

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- B. If Abboud's effort to assert himself is successful, and at the moment it appears that it will be, there should be somewhat more stability in the Sudan although many serious basic problems remain.

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